

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION established 1939

October 2003 NEWSLETTER

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497 Stony Brook Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Chilly Autumnal Greetings!

What a surprise to come back from Japan and find that New Jersey seems to have gone from deep warm summer to an almost-winter. However, that temperature, along with the color of the leaves, could change tomorrow. What you don't want to change is the Monday night habit of RVAA. October 27th is our next meeting, 7:30 pm at the Somerset County Library, and renowned watercolorist and watercolor-collagist, Nessa Grainger, is to be our demonstrator.

Debbie Tintle, who has been RVAA's Program Chairwoman for almost as long as I've been an RVAA member (and that started in 1976!), has stepped down from the position. You know how hard Debbie (and John) have worked for RVAA; Debbie has always obtained great demonstrators for us, and a in a wide variety of media. Debbie has always been warm and friendly, responsible, and a top-notch watercolorist. She still is, of course, but now perhaps she'll have a tad more time for painting! For any members who've joined in the last, oh, maybe 8 years, before President Linda, there was President John, and Debbie, and they also ran the Holiday Show for several years. We thank both Debbie and John for all the many, many things they've done for RVAA for so long; Debbie, and John, are a hard act to follow. So now, what next? Well, we thank Gay Billich for stepping in for Debbie, and procuring Nessa. You will really enjoy Nessa and her innovative techniques; she is an award-winning artist, teacher, and demonstrator, and she is travelling here from Pennsylvania for RVAA October 27th.

At our September meeting Al Grafke was kind enough to let his painting be raffled off, netting some earnings for RVAA and a real happy feeling for Jerily DeWorken, who was the lucky winner! Judy Hummer came up with some original and tasty treats, with cider, fruits and cheeses; we thank her for those. In October Eleanor DeMott and Lib Ryman will be providing our delicacies.

Dues are due, were due in September and your editor apologizes for writing down the wrong figures in September's NEWSLETTER. Individual dues are \$27; family dues are \$33., and students (through high school) are \$15. Still a bargain for all you get. Please send a check made out to RVAA to our Membership Chairperson Doug Axmann, 25 Schoolhouse Lane, Somerville, NJ, 08876.

Mary Creasy has been working hard on our show at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, just off Rt. 22 (just west of Westfield). Each artist may bring two smaller, or one large, painting for the show. Fourteen members have already signed up; six more may, by phoning Mary at 908/526-4027. There is no entrance fee, but 20% goes to the hospital if a piece sells. Your label on the back right hand corner should have your name, address, phone number, title, price, media. At the next meeting (write or phone if you can't attend) Mary needs a list also, with all that information (you want a record for yourself, also). Mary suggests you take a photo of the work(s), and she would like your bio (on delivery) which will go into a folder for the hospital to use. Delivery itself is Saturday, November 1st, between 10 and 11. Pick-up is Saturday, November 29th, between 10 and 11. RVAA thanks Mary for all her work!

RVAA extends the sympathy of its members to Audrey Wreszin, who lost her husband in late August. Our prayers and wishes of healing go out to you, Audrey (as you RVAAers should know, Audrey is responsible for having this NEWSLETTER copied, and for stamping, addressing, and mailing it; we all thank Audrey for this).

For all artists in pastel, THE PASTEL JOURNAL is holding its 5th Annual Pastel 100 Competition, with \$10,000. in cash prizes. For an entry form, visit their website at www.pasteljournal.com, or email them at PJcompetitions@fwpubs.com. Entry deadline is November 1, 2003.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

GAY BILLICH was juried into the inaugural show online "The New American Gallery--Watercolors from the Garden State", into the NJWCS Associate Members' Juried Show, the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission and Somerset Art Association's exhibit "Awash with Color", and also into the 103rd Anniversary International Exhibition of the Philadelphia Watercolor Society. Gay has also been juried into NAWA (National Association of Women Artists) as a full-fledged signature member.

CAROL STAUB has been juried into NAWA as a full-fledged signature member. Carol also was juried into the 4-person show at the A.E. Bean Backus Museum in Ft. Pierce, Florida, for the month of September. She was juried into the National Acrylic Painters' Association USA's 7th Annual International Exhibit at the Cornell Museum in Delray Beach, Florida, Sept. 8--Nov. 19th. Carol has now received signature membership in the National Acrylic Painters' Association. As a member of the National Collage Society, Carol exhibited in their 6th Annual Postcard Show at Lincoln Center. She had two paintings juried into the 12th Annual National Exhibition at the Art Institute and Gallery in Salisbury, Maryland and received a Juror's Mention Award for her painting "Vintage." Carol also received an Award of Excellence in the juried NJWCS's

Associates' Show at Children's Specialized Hospital.

SONJA WEIR had a Solo Show at Johnson & Johnson Corporation in Skillman, New Jersey, which ran from May until September. Seventeen works were on display, portraits, landscapes, seascapes, flowers, etc. in watercolor, pastel, and oil.

The Tewksbury Historical Society Juried Show is now over. RVAA members who were awarded prizes are Elsa Herrmann, the Joan Day Memorial Award for "Oldwick General Store", 1st Florals-Joan Raushi for "Still-life of Cherries", 1st Animals-Mary Ann Creasy for "Olympic Hopeful, 3rd Buildings-Rita Gorky for "Farm Stand" and 2nd Still-life and Interiors-Colette Lemay for "Bird Watcher". Other RVAA members juried into the show were Mary Ann Vaccaro, Kathy Blair, Angela Fehrenback, Fran Maurer, Gay Billich, Lib Ryman, Diana Patton, Susan Furey, Marge Braun, Rae Hoffman, Nona Rutter, Helyn Maier, and Nancy Schuman.

Please! Do send me notes with your news!

My news is simply that Gard and I had a fantastic few weeks in Japan, travelling to and from Mito, Nikko, Ito (the Izu Peninsula), Tokyo, and Kyoto, seeing, yes, shrines & temples and a couple of art museums, but also, two out-of-this-world aquariums, a zoo, one of their three Teddy Bear Museums (Teddies are so "in" in Japan), Montessori children, and more. We thought that the Japanese were the friendliest people/country we've encountered (and that's saying something, after Australians and Tanzanians). A clean and lovely country, where art is a way of life. Truly. From ordinary posters and fliers to package wrapping, even tickets to shrines and temples, from numerous gardens to food presentation, art is a way of life. And kindness. We took lots of video and lots of photos. Now I just need to make some time to sort it all out and maybe paint from some of it. Good luck to me! Meanwhile, to keep the flavor and the feeling, I'm still using chopsticks.